

North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program Background Report

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Alaska Coastal Management Program

The preparation of this report was financed in part by funds from the Alaska Coastal Zone Management Program and the Office of Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, administered by the Division of Municipal and Regional Assistance, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, and the North Slope Borough Assembly.



1984

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACMA	Alaska Coastal Management Act
ACMP	Alaska Coastal Management Program
ACPC	Alaska Coastal Policy Council
ADCRA	Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ADOT/PP	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
AEIDC	Alaska Environmental Information and Data Center
AMSA	Areas Which Merit Special Attention
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
ANWR	Arctic National Wildlife Range
ARCSystem	Automated Review and Comment System
ASRC	Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CRREL	U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory
CZMA	Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
DGC	Division of Governmental Coordination
DPDP	Division of Policy Development and Planning
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCRS	Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
MMS	Mineral Management Services
NANA	Northwest Alaska Native Association
NARL	Naval Arctic Research Laboratory
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPRA	National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska
NSB	North Slope Borough
NSBCMP	North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program
OCZM	Office of Coastal Zone Management (Federal)
TAPS	Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
USDI	U.S. Department of the Interior
USGS	U.S. Geologic Survey
WAATS	Western Arctic Alaska Transit Study

TRANSLITERATION

Prepared by North Slope Borough Inupiat Language, History and
Cultural Division.

ENGLISH	INUPIAT
Cape Thompson	Aggutaureq
Kivalina	Kivaliñiq
Utokuk	Utoqqaq
Okpilak	Uqpilaaq
Aichilik	Atchalik
Ikpikpak	Ikpikpak
Point Thompson	Isuk
Akunik Pass	Akunniq
Utukok Pass	Utuqqaq
Pitmegea	Pigmigiaq
Colville River	Kuukpik
Canning River	Kuugruaq
Pt. Hope	Tikiqaaq
Pt. Lay	Kali
Kukpak River	Kuukpak
Chandler River	Narvaksraum Kuuza
Anaktuvuk	Anaqtuuvak
Kanayut	Kanayut
Cobblestone Creek	Nullagiuraq
Itkillik	Itqiliq
Toolik	Tuulik
Sagavanirtoq	Sagvañniqtuq
Ivishak	Ivisaag
Shavlovik	Savviugvik
Kavik	Qavvik
Oliktok Point	Uuliktuaq
Pingok	Pizuk
Kuparuk	Kuukpaagruk
Avak	Avvaq

INTRODUCTION

The North Slope Borough developed a coastal management program to enhance its ability to manage coastal resources and to plan for balanced use. The North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program, together with the comprehensive plan, land use ordinance, subdivision ordinance, geographic information system, and the automated review and comment system comprise the basis and structure needed to resolve land use and resource management issues in coastal arctic Alaska. The North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program attempts to resolve coastal resource use conflicts while providing both for future growth and conservation. With an approved coastal management program, decisions about coastal resource use, subsistence activities, village growth, and industrial development can be based on knowledge of existing biological, physical, and socioeconomic conditions and thorough understanding of the alternatives to a given resource use or related activity.

ASSEMBLED DOCUMENTS CONTAINING THE NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

An assemblage of four documents constitute the North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program. They include the following:

- o This Background Report;
- o A Resource Atlas containing 22 maps;
- o The North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program;
- o A Bilingual Summary

This Background Report includes resource inventory and analysis material with in-depth data and assessments, which in conjunction

with the map atlas, provide technical support for the North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program. Readers will find these companion pieces useful references in substantiation of program elements and standards.

WHAT IS COASTAL MANAGEMENT?

Coastal management is a joint planning and management effort by local, state, and federal governments and the private sector to manage coastal resources and promote their wise and balanced use. Competing demands on the natural, commercial, recreational, ecological, industrial, and aesthetic resources of the coast have increased significantly since 1960. Initially, local, state, and federal governments lacked sufficient planning and regulatory authority, which resulted in a piecemeal, short-term management approach to the allocation of coastal resources and use of coastal areas.

In 1972, recognizing the national need for a coordinated governmental approach to the balanced utilization of coastal resources, Congress passed the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The CZMA established a national program for the management, beneficial use, protection, and development of coastal land and water resources. The federal program was designed to assist states in exercising their management responsibilities over land and water resources through the development and implementation of state coastal management programs. The intent of Congress was to achieve wise use of land and water resources of the coastal zone while giving consideration to ecological, cultural, historical, and aesthetic values and the needs of economic development.

Alaska exhibited all of the intense pressures on coastal resources which prompted Congress to enact the CZMA. Advances in petroleum products and mineral extraction technologies were bringing once inaccessible regions of the Alaska coast and coastal resources within

profitable reach of large-scale industrialization. This resulted in substantial economic, social, cultural, and environmental impacts on wilderness coastal areas and their Native Inhabitants. The size and diversity of Alaska's coastal area and wealth of coastal resources required specially adapted organizational arrangements for coastal management. Those specialized needs were reflected in the passage of the Alaska Coastal Management Act of 1977 (AS 44.19.891-894 and 46.40), which provided for a state coastal management program methodology based on the partnership of shared state and local management responsibilities for coastal areas and resources.

The goals of the State, in creating a coastal management program are set forth in the legislative policy of the Alaska Coastal Management Act, as follows:

1. Preserve, protect, develop, use, and, where necessary, restore or enhance the coastal resources of the state for this and succeeding generations;
2. Encourage coordinated planning and decision making in the coastal area among levels of government and citizens engaging in or affected by activities involving the coastal resources of the state;
3. Develop a management program which sets out policies, objectives, standards and procedures to guide and resolve conflicts among public and private activities involving the use of resources which have a direct and significant impact upon the coastal land and water of the state;
4. Assure the participation of the public, local governments, and agencies of the state and federal governments in the development and implementation of a coastal management program;
5. Utilize existing governmental structures and authorities, to the maximum extent feasible, to achieve the policies set out in this section; and
6. Authorize and require state agencies to carry out their planning duties, powers and responsibilities and take actions authorized by law with respect to programs affecting the use of the resources of the coastal area in accordance with the policies set out in this section and the guidelines and standards adopted by the Alaska Coastal Policy Council under AS 46.35.

The legislation further stated that the Alaska Coastal Management Program will be consistent with the following objectives:

1. The use, management, restoration and enhancement of the overall quality of the coastal environment;
2. The development of industrial or commercial enterprises which are consistent with the social, cultural, historic, economic, and environmental interests of the people of the state;
3. The orderly, balanced utilization and protection of the resources of the coastal area consistent with sound conservation and sustained yield principles;
4. The management of coastal land and water uses in such a manner that, generally, those uses which are economically or physically dependent on a coastal location are given higher priority when compared to uses which do not economically or physically require a coastal location;
5. The protection and management of significant historic, cultural, natural and aesthetic values and natural systems or processes within the coastal area;
6. The prevention of damage to or degradation of land and water reserved for their natural values as a result of inconsistent land or water usages adjacent to that land;
7. The recognition of the need for a continuing supply of energy to meet the requirements of the state and the contribution of a share of the state's resources to meet national energy needs; and
8. The full and fair evaluation of all demands on the land and water in the coastal area.

The Alaska Coastal Management Act created the Alaska Coastal Policy Council to be housed in the Office of the Governor. One of the initial duties of the council was to adopt use, habitat, and resource standards for the Alaska Coastal Management Program and guidelines for the development of district coastal management programs. The legislature subsequently approved these standards and guidelines as the minimum requirements for coastal management in Alaska and incorporated them in the Alaska Administrative Code. Local coastal resource districts and state agencies both are bound by the standards when considering uses and activities in coastal areas, coastal

habitats, and specified coastal resources. The Alaska Coastal Management Program outlines the planning process to be followed by local coastal resource districts in preparing district coastal management programs.

The Alaska Coastal Policy Council is responsible for statewide oversight and coordination of coastal management efforts. Coastal management plans developed by local coastal resource districts, such as the North Slope Borough, must reflect the desires and aspirations of local residents, land and water uses and activity along the coast, and the coastal resources contained within a district. These district coastal management programs are the building blocks of the Alaska Coastal Management Program, through which local, state, and federal governments and the private sector cooperate to manage Alaska's coastal resources and promote their wise use and development.

DISTRICT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Alaska Coastal Management Act provides for district coastal programs to be developed in conformity with the general guidelines and standards of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. District coastal programs, such as the North Slope Borough Coastal Management Program, reflect unique local issues, resources, and policies toward coastal management. Once drafted, these programs are subject to review by state and federal agencies and approval by both the district governmental body (e.g., borough assembly) and the Alaska Coastal Policy Council.

Coastal management program elements form the core of the district program. Elements addressed in program development include:

- Needs, objectives and goals
- Organization
- Boundaries

- Resource inventory
- Resource analysis
- Subject uses
- Proper and improper uses
- Policies
- Implementation
- Public participation

In addition to district coastal management program elements, the Alaska Coastal Policy Council has approved and adopted standards for major land and water uses and activities, coastal habitats, and resources in the coastal zone. Uses, habitats and resources addressed in program development include:

- Coastal development
- Geophysical hazard areas
- Recreation
- Energy facilities
- Transportation and utilities
- Fish and seafood processing
- Timber harvest and processing
- Mining and mineral processing
- Subsistence
- Coastal habitats (including offshore areas; estuaries; wetlands and tideflats; rocky islands and seacliffs; barrier islands and lagoons; high-energy coasts, important upland habitats; and rivers, streams, and lakes)
- Air, land and water quality
- Historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources

Two other important coastal management program aspects specifically addressed by the North Slope Borough are Areas Which Merit Special Attention (AMSA) and Uses of State Concern. AMSA designation allows for special management efforts by and those provided for unique aesthetic, ecological, geophysical, or industrial values present in a delineated geographic area. Uses of state concern include those

which would significantly affect the long-term public interest. Appendix A of the Coastal Management Program provides a more detailed description of the major coastal management program elements and standards.